U.S. Agent Identifies Accused Soviet Spy

Newark

An amateur American counter-espionage agent made a dramatic courtroom identification yesterday of an accused Russian spy as the man he saw lurking in the neighborhood of three message drops last fall and winter.

Stepping down from the witness stand in federal court here, Lieutenant Commander Arthur Edward Lindberg walked to the defense table and pointed at Rudolf Chernyayev, a 43-year-old clerk in the personnel office of the United Nations.

"This is the man I saw," Lindberg said.

Chernyayev, a Soviet citizen who has been working for the United Nations since 1974, did not change expression, but his cheeks reddened a bit. He met Lindberg's eyes with a steady gaze.

It was the first time Chernyayev or his co-defendant, Valdik Enger, 39, also a U.N. employee, had been linked to a spy ring that federal prosecutors said was uncovered after a nine-month investigation that began in the summer of 1977.

There still has been no direct evidence connecting the two and Soviet diplomat Vladimir Zinyakin to the spy ring. Zinyakin was named as a conspirator, but was not indicted. Because of his diplomatic status, he was allowed to leave the country.

Lindberg testified that on March 11 this year he had gone to a service area on the Garden State Parkway in New Jersey to await a telephone contact from spies he had never seen but had talked with on numerous occasions.

While searching for the telephone booth where he was to receive his call, Lindberg said, he saw Chernyayev sitting in another telephone booth. The naval officer, who was working with the FBI and the Navy Investigative Service, said he was about two feet from the Russian. "He was seated," Lindberg said. "I saw his full face and the upper portion of his body.

"I had seen him on two prior occasions on October 22," Lindberg said. He said Chernyayev had been driving a blue Dodge with New York license plates, 762-XLT, and was leaving from the same service area as Lindberg was arriving to take a phone call from a spy he knew only as "Jim."

Lindberg said he saw Chernyayev later that same day, October 22, near a train station when he went there in response to directions from "Jim," to pick up $2000 left for him in a garbage pile and to leave information furnished by the FBI to be given to the spies.

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